***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 25 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-0)*** *(*[*ONLINE SURVEY FOR CANDIDATES FOR MANDATE HOLDERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (49TH SESSION)*](https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/985419)*)   
  and****(2) application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-1)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC49.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC49.aspx)*)*
* *Once fully completed, in English or French only, the Word application form should be submitted by email to* [*ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org*](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)
* *A maximum of up to three optional reference letters may be attached to the email (in Word or PDF format).*
* *No additional documents (e.g. CVs, resumes or additional reference letters) will be accepted.*
* *Applicants will receive an acknowledgment email when both parts of the application process, i.e. the data submitted through the online survey and the Word application form, have been received by the Secretariat.*
* *Applications will only be considered if both parts and all sections of the Word application form have been completed and received by the Secretariat before the expiration of the deadline.* ***No incomplete or late applications will be accepted****.*
* *Eligible for Working Group mandates are only nationals of the States belonging to the* [*regional groups*](https://www.un.org/dgacm/content/regional-groups) *for which specific vacancies have been advertised.*
* *General description of the selection process and answers to frequently asked questions are available at* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx) *and* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx)
* *In case of technical difficulties or problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by email (*[*ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org*](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)*) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

| **1. Family (last) name:** Naidoo | **5. Year of birth****:** 08/01/1965 |
| --- | --- |
| **2. First (given) name:** Kumaran Shunmugam | **6. Place of birth:** Durban, South Africa |
| **3. Other name, if any:** Kumi | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** South African |
| **4. Gender:** Male | **8. Any other nationality:** N/A |

**II. MANDATE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCE / QUALIFICATIONS / KNOWLEDGE**

**NOTE: Please describe why the candidate’s competence / qualifications / knowledge is relevant in relation to the specific mandate:**

1. **QUALIFICATIONS** (200 words limit)

**Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights; good communication skills (i.e. orally and in writing) in one of the six official languages of the United Nations (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.)**

I am a seasoned human rights activist and climate justice campaigner. My previous roles have included Secretary General of Amnesty International, Executive Director of Greenpeace and Secretary General of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. I have addressed hundreds of gatherings of civil society and other audiences across the globe on the runaway climate crisis. I earned a PhD from Oxford University and have had several honorary doctorates conferred since 2012. I am a native English speaker and have been published extensively in journals, acemadia and a variety of human rights publications. I have served as editor for the book "Civil Society at the Millennium" (1999), and co-editor with Jane Foster of "Putting Young People at the Centre: Participation and Social Change" (2001). He is also the author of Boiling Point:Can citizen action save the world? (2010) and is currently preparing to publish a book on my experiences as a fifteen year old child activist fighting the Apartheid regime in South Africa. The mandate of Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change will only benefit from my extensive experience, solid academic record and excellent communications skills.

1. **RELEVANT EXPERTISE** (200 words limit)

**Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles. (Please state how this was acquired.)Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the United Nations or other international or regional organizations’ work in the area of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate. (Please state how this was acquired.)**

I have served the United Nations system previously from 2012 to 2015 when I was appointed to the UN Women:Global Civil Society Advisory Group. I am familiar with and understand the United Nations system intimately. I was appointed by the former U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan to the Eminent Persons Group on United Nations-Civil Society Relations in 2013. I have served as an advisory board member on the United Nations Democracy Fund and UNIFEM.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights have shaped my activism and work. From being Secretary General at CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation, the nature of work has exposed me to a range of intersecting human rights instruments, climate science and climate justice discourses. While at CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Greenpeace and Amnesty International, my colleagues and I had to regularly engage with local, regional and international human rights instruments, legislation and policy in performing our tasks.

My varied experiences have given me a wide ranging exposure to and understanding of the complexities of international and regional laws, policies and general diplomatic skills.

**Proven work experience in the field of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate. (Please state years of experience.)**

My work experience spans over 30 years and ranges from local to global human rights and climate justice leadership. I am a respected and authoritative voice within civil society and my previous roles have included Secretary General of Amnesty International, Executive Director of Greenpeace and Secretary General of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation.

I have addressed the United Nations General Assembly (2018) and spoken to people in over 150 countries, on overlapping issues including human rights and climate justice. The audiences have ranged from adult political leaders to young people and reflect my intergenerational and intersectional beliefs and appeal. I have been spending more time with young people and have been openly supportive of youth-led initiatives like Fridays For The Future and similar actions by young people.

In the context of the mandate for the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; I have consistently called for collaborative and intersectional approaches to address climate injustices and human rights violations. I have produced a series of free, online lectures through Fossil Free University (2020), focussing on learning about climate justice. The lectures bring together academics, business leaders, activists and civil society to create an accessible learning platform for the climate crisis. I have also served as a Special Advisor to the Green Economy Coalition, focussing on building a new eco-social contract for society. In my current Fellowship at the Robert Bosch Academy, I am focussing more attention on the developing sphere of Artivism, the bringing together of art and activism. I hope that Artivism will bring an urgency to the climate crisis work.

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE** (200 words limit)

**Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired.)**

In addition to being selected to lead the global human rights organisation, Amnesty International as it’s Secretary General in December 2017, my entire professional career has been grounded in rights based work. Locally in South Africa, I led a national adult literacy organisation at the transition to democracy in the country. I played a key leadership role in the running of the first democratic elections in South Africa. This was followed by his leadership of the national NGO coalition until he was appointed to lead CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation.

I have first-hand experience at the coal face of the fight against climate change. I have served as the Chairperson of the Global Call for Climate Action (GCCA), and later as Executive Director of Greenpeace, where I witnessed the human rights impacts of climate change during Typhoon Hagupit in South East Asia in 2014.

In addition, I have served the United Nations system as a volunteer in roles as a member of the UN Women:Global Civil Society Advisory Group (2012 to 2015). In 2013, I was appointed to the Eminent Persons Group on United Nations-Civil Society Relations.

1. **PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**Please list significant and relevant published books, articles, journals and reports that the candidate has written or public statements, or pronouncements that the candidate has made or events participated in relation to the mandate.**

* 1. **Enter three publications in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Title of publication:** Speech at the Seminar to Address the Adverse Impacts of Climate Change on the Full Enjoyment of Human Rights.

**Journal/Publisher:** The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Date of publication:** 2011

**Web link, if available:**

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/SpeechKumiNaidoo.pdf>

**2. Title of publication:** Human Rights and the Climate Crisis: International and Domestic Legal Strategies

**Journal/Publisher:** Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs (Vol 25 2020) UCLA

**Date of publication:** 2020

**Web link, if available:** <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3tm2z430>

**3. Title of publication:** One Minute to Midnight: We are fast running out of time

**Journal/Publisher:** Independent Online (IOL)

**Date of publication:** August, 2015

**Web link, if available:** <https://www.iol.co.za/news/opinion/one-minute-to-midnight-we-are-fast-running-out-of-time-c1462a08-7f63-4036-baea-ead60c3a10be>

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):

I have authored more than 200 articles, statements and opinion pieces over the past 30 years dealing directly with the questions of human rights and climate change. In the last 10 years, I have focussed more extensively on the causal links between our personal consumption habits, the unequal burden of negative climate impacts on poorer nations and our collective failure to act positively towards climate change as a direct human rights violation.

I have served as editor of "Civil Society at the Millennium '' (1999), and co-editor with Jane Foster of "Putting Young People at the Centre: Participation and Social Change" (2001). I also wrote Boiling Point:Can citizen action save the world? (2010).

I believe that climate change must be dealt with in a truly intersectional manner and understanding how issues such as public health intersect with climate change is important. It has been with this in mind that I have been supportive of efforts to secure vaccine equality for all. In my own words: “Climate change is a human rights issue not only because its devastating impacts affect the enjoyment of human rights, but also because it is a man-made phenomenon which can be mitigated.”

* 1. **Enter three public statements or pronouncements made or events that the candidate may have participated in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:**

**Event organizer:** The Philippines Commission on Human Rights

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 2018

**Web link, if available:**

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/12/kumi-naidoo-testimony-at-philippines-human-rights-commission-investigation-into-carbon-majors-climate-change/>

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:**

**Event organizer:** Oxford Amnesty Lectures

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** May 2012

**Web link, if available:** <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/events/human-rights-are-green-rights>

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:**

**Event organizer:** Address to the UN General Assembly, Nelson Mandela Peace Summit

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Sept 2018

**Web link, if available:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q28IjHijFk4>

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):

I have addressed audiences in more than 100 countries around the world from Kiribati to Vanuatu in the Pacific to Peru in South America. This has made me acutely aware of the distinct way climate change impacts vary from region to region and country to country.

I have argued for more than 15 years that climate change is a human rights issue. It is man made and its effects can be mitigated. I have repeatedly made the link between forced migration, driven by climate change and resulting human rights violations of the migrants.

My articulations as far as climate change and human rights have been addressed to academics, trade unions, business leaders and civil society gatherings on the urgency of the climate crisis. I have been openly supportive of youth-led initiatives like Fridays For The Future and other similar actions by young people. I have consistently called for collaborative and intersectional approaches to address climate injustices and the consequent human rights violations that they have spawned. I also have the ability to bring climate change into the conversation when speaking at events that are on the face of it not about climate change.

1. **FLEXIBILITY/READINESS AND AVAILABILITY OF TIME** (200 words limit)

**to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, including participating in Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York, travelling on two country visits per year, drafting reports according to established deadlines, organizing and participating in consultations and meetings, addressing allegations of human rights violations with all concerned, providing advice to States and other stakeholders on issues related to their mandate and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. Kindly indicate whether the candidate can dedicate an estimated time of four to six months per year to the work of a mandate depending on its workload.**

**Please note that the work of mandate holders is unpaid. Those appointed as mandate holders serve in their personal capacities. They are not United Nations staff members, they are not based in United Nations offices in Geneva or at another United Nations location, and they do not receive salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.**

I acknowledge the request to dedicate an estimated time of four to six months per year to the work of the mandate and hereby confirm my availability. I also acknowledge the role is unpaid and I’m thrilled at the prospect of serving the United Nations as a volunteer again.

I further confirm that my current commitments as a Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy is due to conclude in May 2022. Should I be appointed to the mandate and be required to actively engage in that role, I do not foresee any serious challenges to doing so.

1. **NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE**

**Indicate whether the candidate has been nominated by (check all that apply):**

☐ **Individual nominations (indicate this if the candidate is self-nominating)**

**☐ Governments**

**☐ Regional groups operating within the United Nations human rights systems**

☐ **International organizations or their offices**

☐ **Non-governmental organizations**

☐ **National human rights institutions**

☐ **Other human rights bodies**

**Name of the nominating entity and additional information about the nomination (use if applicable, for third-party nominations only)** (200 words limit)**:**

When this role came to my attention after the COP 26 event in Glasgow and given the tight deadline, I have opted to do the application as an individual nomination.

**III. MOTIVATION LETTER, INCLUDING YOUR VISION OF THE MANDATE**(600 word limit. Must be typed in the space below and not sent in a separate email or as an attachment. To be drafted and signed (i.e. with a typed signature) by the candidate himself/herself even if nominated by another entity.)

We are now in what is arguably the most consequential decade of humanity’s long history on planet Earth. The full effects of our rapid and ever growing industrialisation, and its dependence on fossil fuel burning, are becoming more apparent. Each current year is now the hottest temperature ever recorded on Earth. Flash and severe floods have ravaged several parts of the world and the brief respite of the COVID-19 prompted lockdowns showed us just how polluted the air in our major cities really is. We are literally and rapidly destroying the very air, soil and water systems that support human and other life on planet Earth. It is, as UN Secretary General, António Guterres said in August this year, a code red for humanity.

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change is arguably a key nexus in the fight to mitigate negative climate impacts and ensure the fulfilment of basic human rights for all. I envision the mandate as a key independent witness to the impacts of runaway climate change in all parts of the world. Observing, recording and reporting to the United Nations system the facts of what is happening, how this is affecting human beings and their ability to exercise and enjoy their human rights. I remain hopeful that in the course of these duties that the mandate will also be able to potentially surface some mitigations and solutions, to improve the situation of the people most vulnerable to the negative climate change impacts.

I envision the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change as a supportive, collaborative and encouraging voice to the already growing chorus of voices from all sectors of society demanding changes to the way we live in the twenty-first century and beyond. It is my hope that the mandate will ensure that we bring to the urgent attention of the UN system; the range of manifestations of the climate crisis. I see the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change amplifying the calls for moves towards climate adaptation, mitigation and redress.

I will seek to do this work in an intersectional manner, as well as work with other parts of the United Nations system that the nexus of human rights and climate change impacts on, given the intersectional nature of the climate challenges we face. Having worked with a diversity of civil society actors from the grassroots to the global level from over 150 countries in the world; I will seek to draw on this resource to support the work of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. Further, I will seek to work in a coordinated manner with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and develop a productive partnership.

I genuinely hope that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change will bring the focus and attention of the world and our leaders to the urgent need to make the climate crisis our single most important issue to be addressed.

**IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)**

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** English

**2. Knowledge of the official languages of the United Nations:**

**Arabic:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily orNot easily:   
**Write:** Easily or Not easily: **Speak:** Easily or Not easily:

**Chinese:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**English:** Yes or no: **Yes** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Easily       
Write:** Easily or not easily: **Easily       
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **Easily**

**French:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**Russian:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**Spanish:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating the type of degree and field of study, and whether full- or part-time; for example, *Masters in Law, University of XXX, part-time, 1975-1977, city and country)*. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one degree may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

| **Name of degree, field of study and name of academic institution, full or part-time:** | **Years of attendance**  (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003;  for ongoing education, please put e.g. 2018-present): | **Place and country:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| D. Phil. in Political Sociology, Magdalen College, Oxford, full-time | 1988 - 2000 | Oxford, United Kingdom |
| BA (Honours) in Political Science, University of Durban Westville, full-time | 1986 - 1987 | Durban, South Africa |
| BA (Law) with Majors in Political Science and Law, University of Durban Westville, full-time | 1983 - 1985 | Durban, South Africa |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with the candidate’s current (most recent) occupation.** **Also, indicate whether positions held were full-time or part-time. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one position may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

| **Name of employer,**  **functional title,**  **main functions of position, full- or part-time:** | **Years of work** (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2005;  for ongoing activities, please put e.g. 2018-present): | **Place  and country:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The Robert Bosch Academy  Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow  Full-time | 2021 - present | Berlin, Germany |
| Amnesty International  Secretary General  Full-time | 2018 - 2020 | London, United Kingdom |
| Africans Rising for Justice, Peace and Dignity  Global Ambassador  Volunteer role | 2020 - present | Johannesburg, South Africa |
| Greenpeace International  Executive Director  Full-time | 2009 - 2016 | Amsterdam, Netherlands |
| CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation  Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer  Full-time | 1998 - 2008 | Washington DC, United States and  Johannesburg, South Africa |
| South African NGO Coalition  Executive Director  Full-time | 1996 - 1998 | Johannesburg, South Africa |
| National Literacy Coalition  Executive Director  Full-time | 1994 - 1996 | Johannesburg, South Africa |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS   
(of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)  
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on the candidate’s behalf.***

**1. To your knowledge, does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause the candidate to limit the extent of inquiries, to limit disclosure, or to weaken or slant findings in any way? If yes, please explain.**

NO

**2. Are there any factors that could either directly or indirectly influence, pressure, threaten, or otherwise affect the candidate’s ability to act independently in discharging the mandate? If yes, please explain:**

NO

**3. Is there any reason, currently or in the past, that could call into question the candidate’s moral authority and credibility or does the candidate hold any views or opinions that could prejudice the manner in which the candidate discharges the mandate? If yes, please explain:**

NO

**4. Does the candidate comply with the provisions in paragraph 44 and 46 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1? (Please answer YES if the candidate complies, NO if the candidate does not comply, together with an explanation.)**

***Para. 44: The principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions at a time shall be respected.***

***Para. 46: Individuals holding decision-making positions in Government or in any other organization or entity which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to the mandate shall be excluded. Mandate holders will act in their personal capacity.***

YES

**5. Should the candidate be appointed as a mandate holder, the candidate will have to take measures to comply with paragraphs 44 and 46 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1. In the event that the current occupation or activity, even if unpaid, of the candidate may give rise to a conflict of interest (e.g. if a candidate holds a decision-making position in Government) and/or there is an accumulation of human rights functions (e.g. as a member of another human rights mechanism at the international, regional or national level), necessary measures could include relinquishing positions, occupations or activities. If applicable, please indicate the measures the candidate will take.**

NOT APPLICABLE

**VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION  
*To be completed by the candidate. The candidate’s name below should match how it is entered on the first page of the form and in the online survey.***

**I hereby certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete and are made in good faith. I understand that falsifying or intentionally withholding information will be grounds for not being selected or appointed or the withdrawal of any proposed appointment or, if an appointment has been made and accepted, for its immediate cancellation or termination.  
  
Kindly note that whilst no changes can be made after this application form has been submitted and the deadline for applications has expired, any relevant change of current occupation, employment, or position, or any other relevant fact or circumstance should be brought to the attention of the secretariat by   
email (**[**ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org**](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)**).**

**Please review the application before you insert your name and date to indicate your agreement.**

**Name:** Kumaran Shunmugam Naidoo

**Date:**

\*\*\*\*

1. The short **online survey** is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate applying for and, if appropriate, nominating entity. The same name, gender and nationality must be used both in the online survey and in the Word application form. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. The **application form in Word format** includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words (section III of the form). The application form should be completed in English or French only, the two working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. The application form will be used as received to prepare the public list of eligible candidates who applied for the vacancy. The application forms of eligible candidates will also be posted as received on the OHCHR public web page for the selection process. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)